

1. (Currently Amended) A securing device for a structural component to be secured to a panel with a tubular piece inserted into a penetration in the panel, and a screw inserted into the tubular piece, said screw being supported with its head on one end of the tubular piece and holding the structural component with its threaded part, said structural component contacting the other end of the tubular piece, said tubular piece being screwed an optional distance into the penetration for axial adjustment, characterized in that the tubular piece contains a distance detector, wherein, when the tubular piece is at a distance from the structural component, said distance detector is in its starting position projecting out of said tubular piece on its side facing away from the screw head and, when the tubular piece is ~~in~~ screwed to contact with the structural component, said distance detector is ~~noticeably~~ slideably displaced relative to the tubular piece.

2. (previously amended): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve inserted into the tubular piece.

3. (previously amended): A securing device according to claim 2, characterized in that the sleeve is slotted.

4. (previously amended): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a pin axially guided in the tubular piece.

5. (previously amended): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is forced into its starting position by a spring element.

10/642,588
00137.00028

6. (currently amended): A securing device according to claim 5, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve, and the spring element consists of oblique surfaces disposed on the sleeve on its side facing away from the screw head, said oblique surfaces cooperating with sloping faces at the relevant end of the tubular piece.

10/642,588
00137.00028

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.